RULES

FOR

THE GOVERNMENT

OF THE

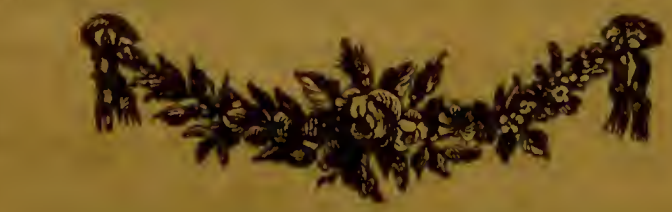
DISPENSARY

AND

FEVER-WARDS,

IN

Stockport.



Stockport

PRINTED BY J. CLARKE.

1802.

R54929

RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE *DISPENSARY.*

1. THAT this establishment be known and distinguished by the name of the *Public Dispensary* and *Fever Wards* of Stockport; and that the government thereof be placed in the hands of trustees, to be qualified as hereafter-mentioned.

2. That all benefactors who have given, or may hereafter give, ten guineas or upwards, at one time, to the Dispensary or Fever Wards, be trustees during life.

3. That every subscriber of one guinea or upwards, annually, be a trustee during payment.

4. That the head or other officer, for the time being, of any township, body corporate, or society, subscribing two guineas annually, be a trustee during the continuance of such subscription.

5. That a general meeting of the subscribers be held annually, viz. on the Wednesday preceding the 25th day of March; and at other times, on special occasions, subject to regulations hereafter noticed.

6. That the power of making and repealing laws, of electing and removing officers, be vested in the general meetings only.

7. That at the general meeting held on the Wednesday immediately preceding the 25th day of March, a president, treasurer, committee, physicians, surgeons, apothecary, and secretary, be annually chosen.

8. That the committee shall consist of twenty-one subscribers, (three of whom shall be competent to act), and shall meet at the Dispensary the first Wednesday in every month, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, to regulate all matters relating to the admission and discharge of patients, enquire into the conduct of the officers and servants, examine and pass accounts, order payments, execute the orders of the general meetings, and prepare such matters as are proper to be laid before the same.

9. That the committee have the power of appointing and discharging the matron, apothecary, nurses, and other servants.

10. That the committee have a power (five subscribers being present) to summon a general meeting upon any special occasion, giving not less than seven days' public notice, and specifying the business to be transacted at such meeting.

11. That whenever it shall be proposed to alter or rescind any old, or to make any new rule, for the regulation of the Dispensary or Fever-Wards, not less than fourteen days' no-

tice shall be given previous to the holding a general meeting.

12. That whenever a trustee wishes to propose any alteration in the medical departments of these charities, he shall give one month's previous notice to the committee, who, if they approve of it, shall call a general meeting, subject to the former rules.

13. That whenever a subscriber means to prefer a complaint against any of the medical attendants, he shall give him at least one week's previous notice.

14. That the proceedings of every general meeting and committee be fairly registered by the secretary and signed by the chairman.

15. That all elections, if contested, be decided by ballot; and all questions by a majority of votes, which shall also be taken by ballot, if required; but no *new* subscriber shall have a vote at any general meeting, unless he shall have paid his subscription at least four months previous to the holding such meeting.

16. That ladies be allowed to vote by proxy, sending written directions for that purpose.

17. That an annual subscriber of half-a-guinea shall have a power of recommending one out-patient; and an annual subscriber of one guinea, shall have a power of recommending two out, or one home-patient; and so in proportion for any larger subscription.

18. That all benefactors who shall give ten

guineas at one time to this charity, shall have, during life, equal power of recommending patients with an annual subscriber of one guinea; and so in proportion for any larger sum.

19. That every annual subscription shall commence on the 25th of March, and be paid in advance to the treasurer. And every subscriber will be expected to continue his subscription until he signify the contrary, in writing, to the secretary, which must be done at least three months before the end of the year.

20. That if any subscriber be three months in arrear, a monitory letter shall be sent to him by the secretary, according to the usual practice of such charities.

21. That no subscriber's recommendation shall be accepted after a monitory letter has been sent to him, until he shall have paid his subscription.

22. That such poor persons only as are not able to purchase medicines, be considered as proper objects of this charity.

23. That every proper object who shall bring a regular recommendation to the Dispensary, at the hour appointed, be furnished with medical assistance, and that such person be denominated an out-patient.

24. That every proper object, incapable of attending personally at the Dispensary, who shall send a regular recommendation at the

hour appointed, be visited at his place of abode, if within the districts; and that such person be denominated a home-patient.

25. That the physician or surgeon shall have a power to alter the recommendations of out or home-patients, and to fix them in such class as they may think most proper, to afford the best means of expediting their cure.

26. That all recommendations for home or out-patients be dated, and signed by the subscriber from whom they are procured: and that the physicians or surgeons receiving such recommendations, be at liberty to refuse giving their assistance, or visiting any home-patients, who they may have reason to think are not proper objects of charity, stating the reason of such refusal to the recommending subscriber.

27. That the recommendations be sent to the apothecary, at the Dispensary, any morning (Sundays excepted) before nine o'clock, who shall deliver such recommendations to the attending physician or surgeon of that day, under whose particular care such patient shall afterwards remain.

28. That every patient recommended to this charity, and all persons sent to the Dispensary for medicines, or on other business, shall demean themselves peaceably and respectfully to the medical attendants, and on no account commit any waste by disposing of their medicines improperly.

29. That the out-patients attend regularly at the stated times appointed by the physician or surgeon under whose care they may be placed; and all patients, when cured or relieved, shall come to the Dispensary, to receive a regular discharge from the secretary.

30. That any patient neglecting to attend to these rules, or being guilty of any other irregularity, shall not again partake of the benefits arising from this charity.

31. That when a patient is dismissed on account of any irregularity, the subscriber who recommended such patient shall be made acquainted with the circumstance, by a letter from the secretary.

32. That a book shall be kept in the Dispensary by the secretary, in which shall be entered a particular account of the number of persons admitted, with their names, ages, places of abode, date of admission and discharge, nature of diseases, and success in treating them; to be at any time perused by the committee or trustees.

33. That domestic servants are not proper objects of this charity, unless subject to the fourth rule of the Fever-Wards.

34. That the overseers of the poor of Stockport be restricted in their recommendations, to such poor people only as belong to the town, or such casual poor as may receive pay from the town.

35. That an inventory of all the household goods and furniture, belonging to the Dispensary and Fever-Wards, be taken annually by the secretary, and signed by the chairman of the committee, held immediately preceding the 25th day of March; that the inventory be kept by the secretary, who shall deliver a copy to the matron of the Fever-Wards; and that the inventory then taken, be compared, by the committee, with that of the preceding year, as well as with the account of what has been since purchased.

36. That a consultation of the surgeons shall be held at stated periods, for the purpose of taking into consideration difficult or dangerous cases.

37. That in difficult or dangerous cases of midwifery, (when a midwife has been attending, and is inadequate to the delivery,) the surgeons will give their assistance, without waiting for a recommendation; provided the person lives within the districts for home-patients.

Form of printed Directions given to Out-patients at the Stockport Dispensary.

STOCKPORT DISPENSARY.

You are to attend your surgeon, Mr. A. B., every or , at twelve o'clock; and when ordered, you must come to the Dis-

pensary, to have a regular discharge from the secretary. You must also demean yourself peaceably and respectfully during your attendance; and not commit any waste, in disposing of your medicine improperly. In default of the above, or other irregularities, you cannot in future receive any benefit arising from this charity.

page in the book.

Form of printed Directions given to Home-patients of the Stockport Dispensary.

Mr. A. B. is your surgeon, and you are strictly to observe his directions; your prescriptions are always to be brought to the Dispensary immediately, and the medicines taken exactly as ordered. You are to refrain from such meats and drinks as your surgeon tells you are improper; and you are to observe all possible cleanliness in your person, clothes, and apartments. When you have notice to be discharged, you must appear at the Dispensary, on the Monday following, at nine o'clock in the morning, where you will receive a letter, which you must carry to the person who recommended you. If you neglect to attend to these directions, you will be discharged for irregularity; and after that, you cannot be admitted again, upon any recommendation whatever.

The Form of a Recommendation for an Out or Home-Patient.

Gentlemen,

I recommend to your examination of whom I believe to be a real object of charity, and desire may be admitted a patient of the Dispensary, if duly qualified.

Age.
Complaint.
How long ill.

All recommendations must be delivered by nine o'clock in the morning, and the patients will be admitted on any day except Sunday.

If the recommendation be given for a home-patient, it is requested that the *place of abode* be *particularly* described.

Form of a Letter, to be sent to Subscribers who are in Arrear.

Stockport Dispensary.

By the 19th rule of this society, of which you are a member, all subscriptions are deemed to be due on the 25th of March; and by the 20th rule, I am required to send a monitory letter to every person whose subscription is three months in arrear. Below is the account of what appears by the books of this charity to be unpaid, and the committee begs the favour that you will order it to be discharged as soon as convenient.

Secretary.

Rules for the Apothecary.

1. THAT he shall provide the drugs and other articles, necessary for the shop, by the direction of the physicians or surgeons, and with the approbation of the committee; and shall deliver to the committee bills of expences at least once in every three months.

2. That he be never absent when the physicians or surgeons are to attend; and that in case of sickness, or any necessary avocation, that he depute another apothecary, who shall be approved of by the physicians and surgeons, to officiate in his place.

3. That he shall act as secretary, and attend at every committee, to minute down and register all proceedings; and that he be always ready to produce the books and accounts of the charity, fairly written.

4. That he enter, in a register, the names of the in, out, and home-patients; the parish or township to which they belong; their age and complaint; when admitted, when discharged, and in what state.

5. That whenever he shall chuse to quit his situation, he shall give three months notice of such his intention.

6. That he shall devote the whole of his time to the interest of these charities; and shall not prescribe or administer any medicines, or in any manner act in his profession, upon his own account.

7. That he shall superintend the management and economy of the Fever-House; and if he find any improper conduct in the matron, nurses, or patients, he shall acquaint the monthly committee.

RULES

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE FEVER-HOUSE.

1. THAT the same officers who are appointed for the Dispensary shall also superintend the concerns of this charity.

2. That no patients be admitted into the Fever-House, before they have been visited by some of the medical attendants.

3. That all poor persons afflicted with fever, who are unable to purchase medicines, are proper objects of this charity.

4. That a domestic servant or apprentice, living in the house of a subscriber, and falling sick of the fever, may, *on particular occasions*, be removed to the Fever-House, to prevent the spread of infection, on payment of fifteen shillings per week: and, in such case, the master or mistress of the servant or apprentice may call in any of the surgeons belonging to the institution; for whose medical assistance a reasonable compensation will be expected.

5. That no domestic servant or apprentice, falling sick in the house of a non-subscriber, be admitted into the Fever-House under one guinea per week.

6. That those persons who are deemed proper objects for admission, shall be conveyed to the Fever-House in a sedan chair, provided and kept solely for that purpose.

7. That every person, on admission, shall change his infectious for clean linen.

8. That the clothes brought into the house by

patients, shall be properly purified and aired.

9. That the walls and ceilings of the wards shall be frequently whitewashed, and such other means used as are most likely to destroy infection.

10. That no relation or acquaintance of the patients shall be permitted to visit them, without leave, in writing, from the medical man who attends them.

11. That no strangers be admitted into the wards, and the nurses shall be strictly enjoined not to receive unnecessary visits.

12. That no linen or clothes shall be removed from the Fever-House, before they have been washed and exposed to the open air for a certain time.

13. That no convalescent shall be discharged from the Fever-House, without the consent of the surgeon.

14. That any convalescent going out of the limits of the Fever-House, without the permission of his surgeon, shall be immediately expelled.

15. That when a patient dies, the body shall be removed as soon as possible, into a room appropriated for that use; and that the friends of the deceased be requested to bury it as soon as decency and convenience will permit.

16. That the committee be requested to undertake the office of inspecting the internal management of the Fever-House.

17. That all public and other business relative to this charity, and not specially provided for in these rules, shall be subject to the rules of the Dispensary, and regulated by them.

Rules for the Matron.

1. That the matron carefully superintend the management of the Fever-House in every particular; and see that it is conducted with the greatest possible regularity, cleanliness, and economy.

2. That she be regular in executing the orders of the medical gentlemen, in administering the medicines prescribed to each patient; and that she provide such diet as shall be directed; and take care that the meals of the convalescents are served at regular stated hours, and that nothing be wasted.

3. That she do not suffer any liquors or provisions to be brought to the patients, but such as the house provides.

4. That she treat the patients with tenderness and good-nature; and that she never suffer any degree of cruelty, insolence, or neglect in the nurses towards them, to pass unnoticed.

5. That she pay a strict and unremitting attention to the rules and orders of this charity; and as far as her department extends, see them duly executed.

6. That in case of the improper behaviour of servants or patients, she complain to the next monthly committee.

7. That no provisions or stores of any kind be purchased by the servants, without first obtaining her order; and that she consider herself, in all cases, as absolutely responsible for the conduct of the servants under her direction.

8. That she shall take care of the household goods and furniture, according to the inventory, and be ready to give an account thereof when required.

Rules for the Nurses & Servants.

1. THAT the nurses and servants obey the matron as their mistress.

2. That they shall immerse all linen and bed-clothes, immediately on being removed from the bodies of the patients, in cold water, before they are carried down stairs; and shall not suffer any discharges from the patients to remain in the wards.

3. That they shall wash the floors of the wards, with soap and hot water, or ley, twice a week; and near the beds every day.

4. That they shall behave with tenderness and humanity to the patients; and that they shall not take from any patient or other person, any fee, reward, or gratuity of any kind, directly or indirectly, for any service done on account of the Dispensary or Fever-House.

The Limits for Attendance on Home-patients.

To the cotton-factories at Brinksway—to Shaw-Heath—to Rowcroft's Smithy—to Stockport Little Moor—to the New Bridge—to Mr. Heald's house, Portwood—to No. 39, of the Club-Houses, on Lancashire-Hill—and to Mr. Bury's factory, Heaton-Norris.

FINIS.